8. Consultation with Panchayat Institutions

As a part of the PMGSY process, PIUs are now required to organise an informal "transect walk". It will be undertaken by the AE/JE at the time of preparation of DPRs. The Panchayat Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Local Patwari will participate. Forest Department officials also will be associated.

9. Maintenance

Since rural Through Routes/Main Rural Links carry comparatively larger traffic and keeping them in good condition is particularly important, Through Routes (whether upgraded under PMGSY or subjected to maintenance contract as an associated Through Route of a PMGSY link route) on expiry of 5-year post-construction maintenance shall be placed under zonal maintenance contracts consisting of 5-year maintenance including renewal. The State Government will make the necessary budget provision and place the funds to service the zonal maintenance contracts at the disposal of the SRRDA in the Maintenance Account.

Assistance for training programme for rural unemployed by NGOs

1667. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has decided to launch a massive training programme for one million rural unemployed with assistance from Non-Government Organisations;

(b) if so, whether it has suggested formation of a rural NGO's forum at State level and a Confederation of NGOs for rural India at National level;

(c) if so, whether a massive training programme in different parts of the country will be done by utilizing vehicle of rural NGOs already working in close coordination with Gangotri; and

(d) if so, to what extent this programme of providing training to one million rural unemployed has been successful so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) proposes to organize a series of training programmes for rural unemployed with the assistance of Non-Government Organisations.

(b) NGOs themselves formed State level fora in some States and a Confederation of NGOs of Rural India at national level. Though these fora and Confederation have not been formed for the proposed training programme, their services would be utilized by CAPART wherever feasible and required.

(c) The training programme will be conducted by CAPART through NGOs in different parts of the country in stages.

(d) While the details of the Scheme are being worked out, to begin with, training will cover one lakh rural youth in different skills through 50 NGOs in 50 districts.

Unproductive land in country

1668. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 25 million hectares of land is lying unproductive in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have revived the various schemes and programmes for the improving wasteland through making it productive to use in the next five years by involving community and private participation in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) As per the Wastelands Atlas of India, 2000, brought out by the Department of Land Resources in collaboration with the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad employing Satellite Remote Sensing Technologies, the total extent of Wasteland/degraded lands in the country is 63.85 million hectares of which 36.98 million hectares are treatable wastelands excluding forest wastelands. To revive and develop these areas, the Department of Land Resources has been implementing three area development programmes namely, the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and the Desert Development Programme (DDP). These programmes are being implemented on watershed basis since 1995-96. Under these programmes, the watershed works are to be planned, executed and maintained by the local people themselves with necessary technical, financial and managerial inputs and